GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1036
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2000
VIGILANCE COMMITTEE FOR FAIR PRICE SHOPS
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to constitute VigilanceCommittees for fair price shops, at all levels like block, district and State level;

(b) if so, the States which have followed the guidelines so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the government to make it mandatory for all the State Governments?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. The concept of Vigilance Committees has been in existence since the inception of rationing system. Central Govt., from time to time, have been requesting the State Governments to activate PDS Vigilance Committees and reconstitute them if not done so by associating members from amongst the card holders and consumer activists as well as Members of Parliament.

(b) All the State Governments/UTsexcept Goa and Daman and Diu haveinformed regarding constitution of vigilance committees at various levels viz., block, district and state for monitoring the functioning of TPDS in the States.

(c) As per PDS guidelines issued in March 1987 and TPDS guidelines issued in Feb. 1997,State Government have been advised to constitute Vigilance Committees as a social audit of the working of PDS in the country. In the Model Citizens` Charter issued in Nov., 1997 for adoption by State Governments, constitution of Vigilance Committees by State Governments at the level of Panchayat /Ward, Taluk, District and State/UThave been also been emphasised. Panchayati Raj Institutions guidelines issued in June 1999, also state that the Gram Panchayat/Gram Sabha should be encouraged to form FPS committees which should include members of existing Vigilance Committees from the FPS of the area and also representatives of TPDS groups, women , as well as members of SC/ST/OBCs.